

Message Text

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17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 020950Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9269

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INRFO RUQPDSA/AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE 5085

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6158

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC PINS ET

SUBJ: TENNECO SEVEN

REF: ASMARA 418

1. THERE FOLLOWS FULL TEXT OF LETTER NO 0818, DATED MAY 31, 1974, FROM THE ERTITREAN LIBERATION FRONT/ERITREAN LIBERATION ARMY TO TENNECO. THIS LETTER WAS DELIVERED IN ASMARA LAST NIGHT BY MESSENGER. DELIVERY WAS PRECEDED BY THREE TELEPHONE CALLS FROM MASSAWA TO A TENNECO EMPLOYEE STANDING IN FOR ED BURTCHAELL (CF ADDIS 6146 PARA 2).

QUOTE: NO 0818 DATE 31.5.74. ERTIREAN LIBERATION FRONT. ERITREAN LIBERATION ARMY. TO TENNECO CO THE LIBERATION FRONT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SENT ITS LAST OFFICIAL LETTER DATED 6.5.74 AND IN THAT LETTER WE WERE SHOWING YOU INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT THE CONTACT. BUT YOU (TENNECO) REFUSES THE INSTRUCTION AND IT DIDN'T ACCEPT OUR OFFICIAL MESSENGER WHO DELIVERED THE LETTERS (IBRAHIM AL MORGANEY) AND TILL NOW NO REPLY FROM TENNECO. BUT WHEN WE WERE WAITING REPLY FROM YOU IN DATE 27.5.74 IN THE AFTERNOON A CANWEST SMALL HELICOPTER COMES TO US WITH MR. GRANT. AND AFTER WE WE ASK HIM HE TOLD US HE CAME IN ORDER TO PICK UP THE PRISONERS. AND WITH HIM THERE WERE TWO
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ERTITREAN MESSENGERS OF SHEIHK ALAMIN WE ALSO ASKS THEM AND THEY

SAID THAT SHEIKH ALAMIN SENDS US WITH THIS HELICOPTER AND TOLD US
US GIVE IT TO ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT AND HE ALSO TOLD US TO
RETURN BACK FROM THE FIRST WHERE THE FRONTIERS STAY FOR YOU.
BUT THE TENNECO KNOWS THAT SHEIKH ALAMIN IS NOT OUR OFFICIAL
MESSENGER AND IT ALSO KNOWS THAT WE DID NOT ASK HER FOR
HELICOPTER. WE KNOW NOTHING OFFICIALLLY ABOUT THIS THING.
THEREFORE ALL OF THEM ARE DETAINED FOR EXAMINATION AND WE WILL
SEND FOR YOU THE RESULT VERY QUICKLY. NO 2. THE ELF REVOUUTIONARY
COUNCIL DECIDED ABOUT THE FIVE TENNECO PERSONNEL THE FOLLOWING
THREE POINTS SHOULD HAVE TO BE FULFILL BEFORE THEIR RELEASE AND
NOW WE ARE GOING TO SEND FOR YOU THE TWO POINTS AND THE THIRD
IS GOING TO BE INFORMED YOU AFTER YOU FINISH THESE TWO. THEY
ARE:

- 1) RANSOM OF 3 MILLION US DOLLARS
- 2) TO BRING THE FAMOUS JOURNALISTS IN US AND CANADA TO
ERITREAN FIELD.

NO 3: WE ARE SENDING FOR YOU THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS AND LETTERS TO
THEIR FAMILIES OF THESE FIVE TENNECO PERSONNEL. NO R: WE
WANT TO REMIND TENNECO THAT THEY SHOULDN'T TO ACCEPT ANY LETTER
IF IT DIDN'T COME THROUGH OUR OFFICIAL MESSENGER (IBRAHIM AL
MORGANY) AND IF IT DIDN'T HAVE A SEAL LIKE THIS. EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE. UNQUOTE.

2. EBASSY'S COMMENTS TO FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.
WYMAN

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NNN

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